FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Latin America

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Various Issues Faced at OAS Conference A 1
El Salvador Elections Support A 1
Support for Salvadoran Junta A 1
El Salvador Draft Resolution A 2
Article 8 Under Fire A 3
Human Rights Violations Report A 4
Border Disputes A 4
Orfila Plan A 5
Sea Outlet Request A 6
Meeting Now Routine A 6
Chilean Walkout A 7
Salvadoran Election Backing A 8
Charter Amendment Draft A 8
CIDH Charges Rejected A 8
Havana Notes Peasant, Workers Meeting in Managua A 9
Nicaragua To Host ECLA Seminar on Racism A 9

ARGENTINA

Videla Denies Mediation Role in Argentine Crisis B 1
[LA NACION 5 Dec]
LA NACION Takes Poll of Military Opinion B 1
[5 Dec]
Country Delivers Reply on Beagle to Nuncio B 3
Foreign Minister Camilion Returns From St Lucia B 3

BOLIVIA

Paraguayan Troops Reportedly Enter Country C 1
Government Urged To End Official Radio Network C 1
Refusal To Join Network [Tacna, Peru] C 1

BRAZIL

Paper Notes Changes in U.S., L.A. Attitudes D 1
[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 6 Dec]
Congress Holds Meeting on Electoral Rules D 1

COLOMBIA

Minister Satisfied With Handling of Hijacking F 1
Communique on Border Problems With Panama F 2

VENEZUELA

Government Issues Communique on Hijackings L 1
Hijackers' Communique L 1

PANAMA

Royo: Media Must Criticize Government More [LA PRENSA 6 Dec] N 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Venceremos Reports Eastern Front Activities P 1
FDR's Juan Martel Comments on Situation [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO 29 Nov] P 1
FMLN Denies Participation in Planes' Hijacking P 2

NICARAGUA

Government Orders Closure of Domestic Airspace P 2
Decree Issued on Special State Council Sessions P 2
Sandinist State Council Officials Discuss Issues P 3

CUBA

Fidel Castro Speaks at FEEM's Fifth Congress Q 1
Castro Chairs Central Committee Plenum Q 2
ADN Reports Communique on DKP's Mies Visit Q 2
Trade Agreement Signed With Ethiopia in Havana Q 2
Leaders Greet LPDR Leaders on National Day [Vientiane] Q 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Hospitalized With Arm Injury V 1

SURINAME

President Rejects Radical Adventurism in Country V 1
Bouterse Discusses Need for Controlling Banks V 2

VARIOUS ISSUES FACED AT OAS CONFERENCE

El Salvador Elections Support

PA052154 Paris AFP in Spanish 1934 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, 5 Dec (AFP) -- Democratic and organized elections in El Salvador could be the first step to solving its civil war, Prime Minister of St Lucia Winston Cenac [title as received, bureau files list him as minister of legal affairs and attorney general] declared here today.

Cenac held a news conference for foreign correspondents and, in reply to a question, pointed out that "the democratic procedures are a guarantee of detente and social understanding."

Cenac added that "anyway, in the dialogue to solve the Salvadoran crisis, it does not seem proper to exclude any speaker beforehand, because open negotiation is the most appropriate way to solve the current Salvadoran situation."

The Caribbean prime minister supported the charges made by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, and recently reiterated, that "the Government of Cuba is seeking to increase its influence in the Caribbean area."

"However, we must solve the problems we are facing ourselves, without foreign intervention," he said.

"In relation to Nicaragua, the topic is most delicate and we must be especially careful, as its present situation releases sparks everywhere," Cenac concluded.

Support for Salvadoran Junta

PA052022 Paris AFP in Spanish 1442 GMT 5 Dec 81

[By Jose Antonio Puertas]

[Excerpts] Castries, 5 Dec (AFP) -- A statement of support for the electoral process underway in El Salvador appeared certain here today as the first important political result of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's intense efforts at the OAS General Assembly.

A motion to that effect started circulating among the delegations of the 29 OAS member-nations and its proponents are confident of the support of at least 20 of them. Any support, no matter how small, expressed for the political project of the Salvadoran civilian military junta is considered in conference circles to be a significant defeat for the countries that favor negotiations first, in order to include the opposition sectors in the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), political branch of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas.

That group is headed by Mexico and Nicaragua, who are accompanied by Grenada and other English-speaking Caribbean states.

Reliable diplomatic sources indicated that the project related to El Salvador has the support of the five Andean group nations, all those of the Southern Cone, Brazil, all of Central America but for Nicaragua and Panama, and at least three Caribbean states: the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Haiti.

It was added that consultations were underway with other Caribbean countries, on which the final draft of the document may depend.

The support for the Salvadoran electoral process, whatever form it takes in the text, is considered in OAS circles to be a bucket of cold water thrown on the FDR's efforts to force the junta led by Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte to negotiate.

It was recalled here that Duarte invited all political parties that are members of the FDR to participate in the elections on the condition that they end the armed struggle, but they replied with a counterproposal, demanding international negotiations that included conditions that are obviously unacceptable to the Salvadoran Armed Forces, such as the formation of a new armed forces, integrating the current troops and officers with those of the guerrillas.

El Salvador Draft Resolution

PA061727 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 6 Dec 81

[By Jose Antonio Puertas]

[Excerpts] Castries, 5 Dec (AFP) -- A draft resolution supporting the Salvadoran electoral process was presented here tonight at the OAS General Assembly, with the support of most of the continent's countries.

The resolution expresses the hope that "all Salvadorans" achieve a climate of peace and harmony through a democratic electoral process and suggests that the OAS member-countries accept El Salvador's invitation to witness its electoral process.

According to a reliable source, the text, which was finally submitted only 2 and 1/2 hours before midnight on Saturday, when the final deadline for the presentation of draft resolutions expired, has the support of 20 countries of the area. The draft resolution was discussed for 2 days, with increasing intensity as the deadline for its submission approached, until it became the focus of attention of this 11th period of OAS General Assembly sessions.

The draft resolution was officially submitted by the Salvadoran delegation, with the support of Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala, it neighbors on the Central American isthmus.

Nicaragua was not consulted because its opposition was assumed and Panama demanded that it be allowed to study the final text in order to decide its position, the sources reported.

The five countries of the Andean group -- Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia -- promised their support, as did the rest of South America: Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Brazil.

The sponsors stressed that from the Caribbean, they have the support of the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica, along with the probable backing of Antigua and St Lucia, while other English-speaking countries were undecided, like Panama.

According to the sources, the most difficult support to obtain was that of Brazil, which waited until the last minute to guarantee its backing, first demanding several changes in the text.

The draft was finally presented as follows:

Whereas Articles 3 and 16 of the OAS Charter refer to the principle of the American states' solidarity with a political organization based on the effective exercise of representative democracy, respect for the basic rights of human beings and the principles of the free determination of peoples;

Whereas Resolution 510 of the General Assembly determines that the democratic system is the groundwork for the establishment of a political society that respects human values;

Whereas: 1. The Government of El Salvador has expressed its intention of finding, in a democratic process, a political solution to the violence affecting the country and, for this reason, has established March 1982 for the election of members to a national constituent assembly; 2. The Government of El Salvador has announced that the Salvadoran political electoral process is underway; and 3. The Government of El Salvador has invited other governments to witness the electoral process [words indistinct] the honesty of the elections,

The General Assembly resolves:

1. To express the wish that the Salvadoran people achieve peace, social justice and democracy within a pluralistic system that permits the citizens to exercise their inalienable rights.

2. To express the wish that all Salvadorans achieve a climate of peace and harmony through a democratic electoral process.

3. To suggest that the governments consider the possibility of accepting the Salvadoran Government's invitation to witness the evolution of its electoral process.

4. To reject violence and terrorism and all support and encouragement for any action that constitutes a violation to the principle of nonintervention.

5. To reiterate that only the Salvadoran people, in accordance with the principle of nonintervention, can resolve their domestic issues.

Article 8 Under Fire

FL051610 Bridgetown CANA in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 5 Dec (CANA) -- Jamaica and Grenada have called for an amendment to the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) to open the organization to those sister countries who are now denied membership.

Addressing a plenary session of the organizations 11th General Assembly here yesterday Jamaica's junior minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Neville Gallimore called for a special session of the OAS to review and amend Article eight which debars states with border or territorial disputes from its membership. And Grenada's Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman said his country was concerned that Article eight of the Charter prevented some regional states, notably Belize and Guyana, from being members of the OAS.

St Lucia plans, during the 10-day meeting, to introduce a formal proposal for amendment of the Charter to allow Guyana and Belize, which have observer delegations at the meeting here, to join the organization.

Gallimore also challenged the OAS to set the end of the current decade as the target date for the peaceful settlement of all border disputes in the region. He declared: "No organization which claims to be truly regional should contain a clause in its basic document which effectively excludes independent countries within its region from membership." Noting that his country had consistently called for the removal of Article eight from the Charter, Gallimore called on the organization to "keep pace with current political realities and not be a prisoner of history."

There were at least nine OAS member states, he said, which at present had border disputes and asked: "Why should they enjoy membership while other independent nations are excluded because of disputes not of their own making?"

Human Rights Violations Report

PA061605 Paris AFP in Spanish 1347 GMT 6 Dec 81

[By Omar Prego]

[Text] Castries, 6 Dec (AFP) -- According to the annual report of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (CIDH), the existence of "states of emergency" in various Latin American countries could lead to a "denial of the de jure system" in certain cases.

In this report, presented at the 11th OAS General Assembly session in St Lucia, the CIDH listed 10 countries that have a "state of siege," a "state of emergency: or a "state of internal war."

These countries are Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Grenada, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

The CIDH acknowledged that "the defense of public order or of state security fully justifies the granting of special powers to certain entities of the central government," in order to preserve democratic institutions or the integrity and sovereignty of the state while the emergency lasts.

However, the CIDH said, in practice these states of emergency "are dictated without justifying circumstances, merely as a simple way of increasing the use of discretion in the exercise of public power."

According to the CIDH, this is frequently in contradiction with statements made by these governments themselves, to the effect that social peace exists in their respective countries, which should in fact lead to the elimination of such measures.

The commission put particular stress on the gravity of the indefinite prolongation of these states of emergency, "especially when they grant the chief of state many broad powers" that could lead to "the denial of the existence of the de jure system itself."

The commission said that it was worried about two violations of human rights that are common during a state of emergency: arrests without due process of law and the expulsion of nationals.

From the quantitative viewpoint, the CIDH noted, "arrests without due process of law constituted the biggest violation of human rights committed during the period included in the report. Most of the complaints received by the CIDH dealt with this kind of violation." Many of these complaints also alleged that "the arrest was followed by torture," the document noted.

The other topic discussed by the CIDH involves expulsions that, according to the commission, contradict the right "of any person to live in his own fatherland and to enter and leave it when he wishes."

In conclusion, the CIDH noted that these expulsions (which occurred in Bolivia, Chile, Guatemala, Haiti and Paraguay) "constitute a serious violation of human rights" and, in certain cases, "a serious violation of international law."

Therefore, the CIDH urged the states "to put an end to this practice and to limit the expulsion of nationals to cases that had been reviewed by the judicial branch, where it is used as an alternative to confinement, and where a definite time period is always specified."

Border Disputes

FL041152 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0410 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- For the first time in its 33 years of existence the OAS will be the forum for the debating of, although indirectly, the territorial disputes between Venezuela and Guyana and between Guatemala and Belize.

The legal affairs commission of the OAS' 12th assembly today gave the go-ahead for debate on Article 8 of the inter-American charter, which vetoes the OAS membership of Guyana and Belize because they have territorial disputes with Venezuela and Guatemala, respectively, which are already members of the OAS.

Eladio Kniping Victoria, of the Dominican Republic, was elected chairman of the OAS' first work commission, which will study 8 of the 38 topics that are on the agenda, of which the most interesting is the report submitted by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission on the situation in Colombia, Nicaragua, Bolivia and Guatemala.

The chief of Mexico's current delegation to the OAS assembly, Rafael de la Colina, confirmed the Mexican-Venezuelan purpose of extending their international oil cooperation to South America. Nevertheless, De la Colina warned that there is still nothing official in this respect, although bilateral talks have been held on the topic and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo himself has insisted on the need of extending international oil cooperation.

Mexico and Venezuela are implementing an oil cooperation plan for Central America and the Caribbean that offers financial help for the purchase of hydrocarbons by the countries in those regions.

Orfila Plan

FL071245 Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 6 Dec (CANA) -- Secretary General Alejandro Orfila has recommended to the OAS General Assembly in session here a 4-year, 3-point plan to restore the financial health of the organization. In his annual report, Orfila estimated that by year end commitments of the OAS regular fund would exceed its liquid resources by more than 19 million dollars (US), continuing the "seriously deteriorating" financial condition that has plagued the organisation in recent years.

According to Orfila, the main reasons for this situation were: approval of unfinanced activities, nonreimbursement of amounts withdrawn from the organisation's working capital subfund and noncollection of quotas from member countries, estimated to be nearly 18 million dollars (US) by the end of this year. He said that while this negative trend had existed for a number of years the situation became acutest this year when after previously utilizing all funds available in the working capital subfund, appropriations of almost 9 million dollars (US) were approved on the assumption that they would be financed by the collection of outstanding quotas and that member countries would fully pay their 1981 quotas during this year. But, Orfila lamented, this assumption was not realized. He said that in fact the opposite had happened, "total collections for 1981 and prior years have been less than the amount assessed for 1981 alone."

Orfila's 4-year plan is designed to raise 25 million dollars (US) to erase the projected deficit and establish a minimum balance in the working capital subfund of 6.6 million dollars (US). The 4-point Orfila plan comprises the payment of the 18 million dollars (US) in "uncollectable" and outstanding amounts owed to the subfund and continuation of an austerity program including the freezing of vacant posts in the OAS General Secretariat. Under plan one, Orfila says, collection of outstanding quotas from member countries (18 million dollars US) would eliminate the present deficit.

He has suggested that the 29 member states of the OAS could be requested to prepare and submit to the secretariat an estimated schedule of payments which would permit the secretariat to effectively plan its cash availability and bugetary execution.

According to Orfila the OAS committee on programing and budget deemed "uncollectable" the amount of 4.5 million dollars (US) in extraordinary appropriations authorised by the Permanent Council from the working capital subfund, while another 1.5 million dollars (US) in advances to the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund to assist member countries stricken by natural disasters was not reimbursed by voluntary contributions from member states as required because no such contributions were made.

The writing off of these two sums, he said, would result in a more realistic presentation of the status of the working capital subfund. Under point three the report states, the freezing of vacant posts in the secretariat resulted in budgetary savings in excess of US 2.2 million dollars this year. Orfila said he intended to continue to maintain austerity in the execution of the 1982-83 budget.

Sea Outlet Request

PY070100 Paris AFP in Spanish 2057 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, 3 Dec (AFP) -- The Bolivian foreign minister, Gonzalo Romero, today said that the Organization of American States (OAS) could provide the suitable framework for overcoming the landlocked status of that country, and noted the necessity for Peru to participate in seeking a solution.

The Bolivian aspiration will be dealt with here for the third consecutive year by the OAS General Assembly, against the objection of Chile, which insists that the OAS lacks the authority to intervene. Romero said that his country will insist on the urgency of satisfying its century-long effort to recover an outlet to the sea, because the persistance of this problem not only affects those parties directly involved but the whole group of hemispheric nations, creating a thorny situation which affects the fraternal relations which all the peoples of the continent should have.

In 1979 the OAS approved a declaration of support for Bolivia's aspiration and asked the parties involved to hold negotiations in order to seek a solution.

We cannot report that there has been any progress, but I believe that by creating a state of mind we can help the growth of the framework necessary for understanding, Romero said. He took the viewpoint that the lack of diplomatic relations between his country and Chile is only a problem of formalities and that what interests Bolivia is to achieve the political will to set things right. This will, he added, must give rise to the recognition of our rights.

Romero said that Peru's participation in the negotiations would be decisive if Chile were to offer Bolivia an outlet through territories which belonged to Peru before the War of the Pacific, 100 years ago.

With respect to the human rights situation in Bolivia, which will be discussed here starting with a critical report by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC), Romero said that the commission had received ample facilities in order to carry out its investigations in La Paz.

Romero, who as the Bolivian ambassador to the OAS meeting resigned in protest against the 1979 coup d'etat against President Walter Guevara Arce, but who nevertheless is today the foreign minister of a military administration, said that the Bolivian Armed Forces at this time represent the spirit of institutional unity which is essential for stable government.

But he insisted that the promise to hold elections in 3 years shows the intention to go on creating the institutional support which will avoid repeating the errors previously committed, although for the time being this is only at the thinking stage, not under experimentation.

Meeting Now Routine

FL071323 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 5 Dec 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 5 Dec (CANA) -- The 11th General Assembly of the OAS, now in session here, today slipped into quiet routine after the hectic first 3 days dominated by addresses from delegation heads and the formal admission of 2 new member states.

The morning's session was taken up with the last 6 addresses by foreign ministers of the 29-member body, including Barbados' Louis Tull, who joined in the calls for the adoption of measures to allow the Central American territory of Belize to accede to membership of the organization.

At the same time the organization's 5 committees were stepping up their activity to deal with the 38 items on the agenda for the 10-day meeting. During the day, several delegations joined in a tour of development projects on the 238 square mile island and attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Winston Cenac. A reception tonight given by the Brazilian delegation will complete the day's social and business calendar.

Today, the Juridical and Political Committee, headed by Eladio Knipping Victoria of the Dominican Republic, received the annual report of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights and expressed the recognition of the OAS for the work done by the court.

The committee also recognized the Governments of Peru, Venezuela and Honduras for having accepted binding decisions of the court in the past year and hoped that other OAS states would soon adhere to or ratify the American Convention on Human Rights, whose entry into force, it said, was an important step on the road to effective protection of human rights in the Americas.

One of the major talking points at the assembly has been Article eight of the OAS Charter, which bars countries having a territorial dispute with their neighbours from becoming members of the hemispheric organization. Barbados, Jamaica, and Grenada have attacked the regulations, saying they need to be changed because they were a hindrance to hemispheric unity. Mr Tull said that Barbados welcomed the decision to put "the hitherto taboo subject" of the controversial article on the agenda.

He said: "The Barbados delegation hopes that reason, maturity and dispassionate objectivity will prevent the development of an antagonistic or divisive debate on an issue of such fundamental importance to our hemisphere."

The junior foreign minister in Jamaica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Neville Gallimore, declared: "No organization which claims to be truly regional should contain a clause in its basic document which effectively excludes independent countries within its region from membership." Gallimore called on the OAS to "keep pace with current political realities and not be a prisoner of history." He said there were at least nine OAS member states which had border disputes. "Why should they enjoy membership while other independent nations are excluded because of disputes not of their own making?" he asked.

Grenada's foreign minister, Unison Whiteman, said his country was concerned that Article eight prevented some regional states, notably Guyana and Belize, from becoming members of the OAS.

Chilean Walkout

PY072050 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1558 GMT 7 Dec 81

[By Orlando Lizama]

[Excerpts] Castries, 7 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Chile withdrew today from the OAS commission charged with studying Bolivia's landlocked situation and warned that country that, by choosing the international organization as a channel for solving the problem, it will never obtain the sea outlet it wants.

Despite Chilean opposition, the question was included in the agenda of the OAS foreign minister's General Assembly being held on this Caribbean island. Chile withdrew as the morning session opened today when Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames and his delegation's members walkd out of the session. The Chilean foreign minister warned the OAS that the discussion of this question at the organization marks the beginning of its self-destruction by permitting a state or group of states to use the organization to intervene in the domestic affairs of any of its member countries.

He added that his country does not want to endorse with its presence such a dangerous precedent and so it will not attend the session while the landlocked situation of Bolivia is discussed. Rojas Galdames said before leaving the session that he wanted to tell Bolivia that it will never fulfill its aspirations through Chilean territory by taking the road it has taken.

Salvadoran Election Backing

PA080014 Paris AFP in Spanish 0007 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Castries, 7 Dec (AFP) -- The OAS by a broad majority today supported "the electoral process underway in El Salvador" in a resolution approved at the hemispheric assembly being held in this capital of the Caribbean, St Lucia.

Charter Amendment Draft

FL072326 Bridgetown CANA in English 2148 GMT 7 Dec 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, 7 Dec (CANA) -- Formal attempts to have the OAS Charter amended so that Caribbean Community (CARICOM) members Belize and Guyana can join the hemispheric body have been initiated here at the OAS 11th General Assembly, now in its 6th day. The eight CARICOM members of the 29-territory organization -- Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad and Togabo, Barbados, Dominica, Saint Lucia and new members, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua and Barbuda -- are cosponsoring a resolution to go before the organization's juridical and political committee.

The draft resolution, which is already in circulation among delegations attending the meeting, urges the committee to instruct the OAS Permanent Council to undertake thorough consideration of Article eight in the context of the progressive development of the OAS. Article eight bars OAS membership to countries involved in a territorial dispute.

The resolution was initiated by Saint Lucia, which announced its intention to formally seek an amendement to Article eight of the OAS Charter at the beginning of the assembly.

The draft resolution was prepared following private discussions among the territories. According to the resolution significant groundwork has been laid for future action on Article eight. It urges the convening of a special session of the OAS General Assembly to be held before the next regular session and calls on the Permanent Council to submit to the special session their concrete recommendations regarding Article eight for possible adopting and implementation.

Most of the English-speaking Caribbean members attending the assembly criticized Article eight during the plenary sessions of the 10-day assembly. Leader of the Jamaica delegation, Neville Galimore, called for a special session of the General Assembly to review and amend the charter, and challenged the OAS to set the end of the present decade as the target date for the peaceful settlement of all border disputes in the region.

Both Belize and Guyana have observer delegations attending the current General Assembly.

CIDH Charges Rejected

PA080318 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2120 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Article by Orlando Lizama]

[Text] Castries, 7 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Argentina and Guatemala today accused the Inter-American Rights Commission (CIDH) of partiality and politicization in their reports on violations in this continent. The CIDH presented four special reports and a general report at the OAS General Assembly held on this Antillean island.

One of the special reports referring to Guatemala accused government officials of complicity in the murder of political opponents.

The general report referred to the state of emergency existing in Argentina and the existence of 700 persons arrested without a trial in this country. Argentine Ambassador to the OAS Raul Quijano, said that the reports analyzed by the OAS legal commission here, have "a dangerous degree of politicization." While defending his country against the accusations, he added that "the CIDH must not turn into a arena of confrontations." Quijano referred to a person reportedly under arrest and claimed that he had been released a long time ago. "The commission should never try to accuse a member country if it cannot base its accusations on irrefutable facts. To do so could be considered acting irresponsibly," he said.

Meanwhile Guatemala rejected the reported complicity of government officials in the violation of human rights which the CIDH had accused them of.

HAVANA NOTES PEASANT, WORKERS MEETING IN MANAGUA

FL071925 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Julio Bermudez, president of the Latin American and Caribbean (?rural) workers organization coordinating committee, said that the meeting at the Nicaraguan capital was indeed a step forward. Bermudez, who is also president of the Confederation of Campesino Settlements of Panama, said that one of the most important agreements of the meeting was the reaffirmation of the coordinating committee's function, made up of representatives from Panama, Cuba, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, as the focal point of all the peasant forces.

Bermudez also stated that during the meeting important resolutions of solidarity with the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala were approved and accordingly that support is extended to all peoples, which in one way or another, struggle to gain their freedom.

NICARAGUA TO HOST ECLA SEMINAR ON RACISM

FL072048 Bridgetown CANA in English 1845 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 6 Dec (CANA) -- In the context of the decade for action to combat racism and racial discrimination (1973-1983), the United Nations is organizing a regional seminar at the level of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) on recourse procedures and other forms of protection available to victims of racial discrimination and activities to be undertaken at the national and regional levels. The seminar is to be held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 14 to 22 December 1981.

The seminar will deal with the following main themes:

A) Review of problems of racial discrimination or prejudice encountered by disadvantaged groups and individuals in the region, with particular reference to indigenous populations;

B) Measures to combat such discrimination and prejudice; provisions of relevant international instruments, constitutional, legislative, judicial and administrative measures; promotional measures including dissemination of informations of investigation, enforcement of decisions, compensation;

C) Evaluation and effectiveness of recourse procedures with due regard to cultural and linguistic factors;

D) Cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels to combat racial discriminations.

VIDELA DENIES MEDIATION ROLE IN ARGENTINE CRISIS

PY071247 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 5 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla (retired) yesterday denied his participation as "mediator" in the current institutional situation as had been suggested by rumors that circulated at the beginning of this week. Former President Videla formerly conveyed his denial to a LA NACION journalist who visited him in his house on Figueroa Alcorta Avenue.

He categorically denied having gone to the Olivos residence in order to talk to Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola (retired), whom he saw for the last time at the military hospital when -- he said -- he was hospitalized for the first time. Lt Cen Jorge Rafael Videla explained that in no way will he interfere in what he thinks should be an absolutely personal decision by his comrade in arms.

LA NACION TAKES POLL OF MILITARY OPINION

PY071652 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 5 Dec 81 p 1, 7

[Text] In view of the institutional situation the country has been experiencing, LA NACION has sounded out opinions in the three branches of the armed forces and prepared the following report:

In the Army

It is reasonably believed that a solution to the present situation, stemming from the state of health of President Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, will have to be found, within the next 15 days.

The military junta is deeply concerned over this problem. Although the official communique released last night at the end of a meeting of the military committee -- that is, the commanders and the acting president of the republic -- it has been reported that Maj Gen Horacio Tomas Liendo, the interior minister who is in charge of the executive branch, at that time presented a new medical report to the commanders in chief. Before attending the above meeting, Liendo had gone to Guemes Hospital where he received an updated report on General Viola's health.

Yet all army sources consulted on the present institutional situation considerably more serious. Thus it was noted that urgent solutions were needed to put an end to the crisis of confidence the country has been going through.

As we mentioned earlier, these sources emphasized the loss of political room experienced by the process during the stage that started in March this year. The present situation it was said, was complicated by the package of financial measures which those military circles regarded as "unconsulted measures."

It was learned that before releasing the official communique on those economic measures on Saturday, 28 November, General Liendo briefed each commander in chief separately. An attempt was made to minimize the signficance of the above measures and it was indicated that the acting head of the executive branch regarded them as "contingency measures."

Army sources regarded them as "state control-oriented" measures. They also added that while it could be considered that the members of the military junta were informed of the above decision, the matter was not submitted to the consideration of that supreme organ of the state. In sum, these sources regarded the decision as "a political action designed to gain room." It was even speculated that despite the wording of the official communique, the interior minister may not have followed general Viola's guidelines in formulating the above decision.

Military officials continue to contend that a prudent, respectful position must be adopted toward an esteemed comrade like General Viola. They made it known, however, that in their opinion the present situation is now considerably more difficult for the president.

It is up to him to make the decision, a military observer said. Yet an unjustified delay, he added, might result in the enforcement of the mechanisms outlined in the documents of the process and the military junta may have to decide the issue.

In the Navy

The opinions expressed in Argentine Navy circles about what should be done to solve the institutional crisis fall purely and exclusively within the realm of political decisions.

It has been stated in those circles that these decisions have to be made without delay to reestablish power in the first place.

The navy, they said, is aware of the serious situation the country is undergoing and believes that no Argentine could be happy over the situation. To believe otherwise would be to be unaware of reality. It has also been admitted that to a certain extent the present situation is a consequence of the squandering that took place in 1979 and 1980 when everyone went on foreign trips and made purchases abroad. The sources said that it is is necessary to become aware of the sacrifice that will be needed to overcome this situation and that the navy is perfectly convinced that solutions can be found and that it is possible to adopt measures conducive to these solutions.

The impression gathered from navy sources is that it is necessary to regain the faith of the public and that this will be achieved only when power is restored and those men "who have lost credibility as due to their actions" are replaced.

They stated that those who had publicly promised things which later did not materialize -- for instance, that the dollar would not go up -- could not possibly retain their office.

These circles do not object to the present economic measures -- which could be of a contingent nature -- but to the fact that they were not prepared by the economic team "but by another sector in no way related to the economic leadership and which, despite having tendered its resignation a few months ago, is still in office endangering the already shaky image of the government."

The navy sources questioned by our newspaper preferred not to voice their opinion on what should be the future steps and who should take them. In this respect, they referred to the basic documents of the national reorganization process which, they said, is in full force and must not be overlooked.

In sum, there are obviously expectations in navy quarters which are waiting for the decisions of the other institutions sharing the navy's responsibility for the national reorganization process. They have thus denied baseless rumors indicating that the navy might renege on the commitment it made with the army and the air force on 24 March 1976.

In the Air Force

The crisis caused by the president's illness has been the subject of many discussions within the air force but the institution has not yet announced its official position on the problem. It is believed that the steps to be taken for the presidential succession should be determined before hand in case General Viola's illness becomes irreversible and so that the problem may be solved without delay.

In line with this thinking, it is believed that the president's resignation should be awaited and then let the military junta appoint a new president, keeping in mind that in order for the national reorganization process to proceed smoothly, the next candidate should be an officer on active duty with the highest rank.

It is believed at this point that the persistence of the crisis or the continuation of the mandate of the interior minister as acting president would be negative. That is, if President Viola's illness is irreversible or if it will prevent him from fully exercising his presidential duties within the shortest possible time, he should be replaced.

COUNTRY DELIVERS REPLY ON BEAGLE TO NUNCIO

PY072321 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2255 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (NA) -- The Foreign Ministry officially announced this afternoon that Argentina's reply to Pope John Paul II's latest letter on the Argentine-Chilean conflict was handed to Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Ubaldo Calabresi who visited the San Martin Palace this morning.

The terse communique released by the Foreign Ministry reads as follows: At 1030 this morning his most Reverend Eminence Msgr Ubaldo Calabresi reported to the San Martin Palace where he was received by Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion who handed him a document related to the pope's mediation in the border conflict between our country and Chile in the southern region.

FOREIGN MINISTER CAMILION RETURNS FROM ST LUCIA

PY071127 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2133 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion returned this afternoon -- 3 hours ahead of schedule -- from St Lucia, where he attended the ninth OAS General Assembly.

The foreign minister attended only the first part of the OAS Assembly where yesterday he delivered a speech in which he called for a change in the inter-American system. The change called for is based primarily on the need to promote greater cooperation for development.

Camilion gave special emphasis to Argentine support for calling a special session to discuss the above subject, which has been under study by the OAS for more than 2 years.

PARAGUAYAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY ENTER COUNTRY

PY072020 Paris AFP in Spanish 1947 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 7 Dec (AFP) -- The newspaper EL DEBER of Santa Cruz reported in its Sunday edition that a group of Paraguayan soldiers reportedly entered Bolivian territory at the Trebol Cattle Ranch approximately 3 weeks ago.

The newspaper reported that three persons have reportedly been taken hostage by the Paraguayan military force, citing the priest of the area as a witness of this incident.

There is complete secrecy in military circles and an official communique on this matter is expected in the next few hours.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO END OFFICIAL RADIO NETWORK

PY071124 Paris AFP in Spanish 1623 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] La Paz, 6 Dec (AFP) -- In a communique released here today, the Bolivian Federation of Radio and Television Workers has declared itself in state of emergency and ready to go on strike.

The mass media workers made this decision to demand that the government of Gen Celso Torrelio Villa suspend the radio network which has been in force in the country since 17 July 1980.

The document charges that the government's latest proposal is another lie and a clear violation of the Bolivian people's freedom of the press and expression.

The communique states that more than 200 radio workers have been forced out of their jobs by the radio network which compels all radio stations to carry an official newscast three times a day.

The media workers call on all Bolivians to turn off their receivers when the official newscast is on and urged all union organizations to join their protest against the government.

Finally, they warn the government that if the above restrictive measure is not lifted in 10 days, they will call a 48-hour strike which will affect all radio and television stations.

Refusal To Join Network

PY071352 Tacna Radio Tacna in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Since 17 July 1980 all Bolivian radio stations have been forced to join an official radio network. As of today, the Bolivian radio stations have rebelled against the government of General Torrelio and decided to stop joining this network which they regard as unnecessary and in violation of both the freedom of the press and free enterprise.

It is not known what action President Torrelio will take in the face of this position adopted by the Bolivan radio stations.

PAPER NOTES CHANGES IN U.S, L.A. ATTITUDES

PY070244 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Something Is Changing" by O.P.]

[Text] The change in U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's rhetoric and attitude at the St Lucia OAS meeting deserves careful attention. The general's radical and furious speech paving the way for the invasion of Nicaragua and direct tutelage over El Salvador by a gendarmerie disguised as an intercontinental force led by the United States was replaced by a more prudent and conciliatory attitude at a time when he had to confront, face to face, certain Latin American diplomats. This is for many reasons a salutary fact. It shows the time is long past when things worked exactly the other way around: Latin American foreign ministers took upon themselves to act as the furious and irrational mouthpieces for whatever the Americans wanted to be made public but did not want to do themselves to avoid exposure to ridicule. It was so to the point that a Brazilian foreign minister in the 1950's gained celebrity as the "Caracas parrot" for his exaggeratedly verbal defense of the big brother's interests at the foreign ministers conference held in that city.

In more recent times, the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 by a purported Latin American force (in which Brazil participated in an active and secondary leadership) seems to mark a point of change in the political landscape of the Americas. The subcontinent seems to have become conscious of its role in world relations and to have definitely realized the importance of the contribution expected from it for the equilibrium and peace among nations. A contribution which the subcontinent can make.

It is important to point out that the position of three countries below the equator -- Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil [as published] -- have been decisive in creating that new attitude. Brazil's foreign policy is thus producing results -- exceptional results, we must say. Without entering into a question of merit in what is happening in El Salvador (the Brazilian position is certainly against guerrilla warfare), Brazil can coherently apply the principle of noninterference into the affairs of Salvadoran people and work to guarantee for them the sovereign decision as to the path they want to follow.

U.S. diplomacy, however, has come to understand that it can no longer treat some Latin American countries, at least, as "banana republics" willing to assume any position at the beck and call of the United States. And if the man who must bend himself -- not in defeat but in search of a new path to ward off confrontations -- is as hard a man as General Haig, so much the better as a test of the firmness of the Brazilian, Mexican and Venezuelan positions.

Something is changing in Latin America, and for the better.

CONGRESS HOLDS MEETING ON ELECTORAL RULES

PY071341 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The national congress has held a special meeting to discuss the electoral package and on other government-sponsored projects in response to a summons made by the president. The turbulent session made Senator Jarbas Passarinho warn against what he called radicalization of the opposition. PMDB members in the Senate and in the Chamber, Senator Marcos Freire and Deputy Odacir Klein, were not allowed to talk by the session's moderator. Pleading that it was just the opening meeting, the chairman of congress quickly closed the session. However, he acknowledged the controversial character of the items to be voted on, especially the electoral package. Despite all this he made a call for maintaining the harmony that should prevail under this circumstance. [passage indistinct]

MINISTER SATISFIED WITH HANDLING OF HIJACKING

PA080739 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Statement by Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastmann on behalf of the Colombian Government, read by (Cristobal Americo Rivera) -- live]

[Text] The following is the government's report on the solution of the case of the three Venezuelan hijacked planes: The three Venezuelan planes that took off from Caracas landed early today in Barranquilla to refuel. From the beginning the Colombian authorities acted very cautiously, with the discretion required in such emergency cases, and maintained permanent contact with the president and interior minister of Venezuela.

After 9 hours and 30 minutes, the three planes took off from Ernesto Cortizo Airport after complying with the Colombian Government's condition to free 56 women, 4 children and 7 men.

We take this occasion to express our special recognition to government officials and armed forces representatives, especially to Gen Jaime Hernandez, commander of the 2d Brigade, for their cooperation, and also to the news media which, with common sense and moderation helped make effective the government's suggestions and instructions.

COMMUNIQUE ON BORDER PROBLEMS WITH PANAMA

PA071631 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Dec 81 pp 1 A, 2 B

[Text of joint Colombian-Panamanian communique signed in Bogota on 2 Dec 1981 by Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Jorge Ritter and Colombian Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastmann]

[Text] Top-level civilian and military authorities appointed by the Colombian and Panamanian Government met in Bogota 30 November to 2 December 1981 to discuss matters of common interest. The delegations included: for Panama: Government Minister Jorge Ritter, head of the delegation; Col Manuel Noriega of the National Guard; Cesar Rodriguez, Panamanian ambassador to Colombia; Presidential Adviser Manuel Salamin; National Guard Adviser Juan Antonio Tack; Gustavo Garcia de Paredes, manager of the Colon Free Zone; Maj Julian Melo; Lt Jorge Bernal; Lt John Pimento; and Lt Cleto Hernandez.

For Colombia: Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastmann, head of the delegation; Julio Londono Paredes, secretary of the Foreign Ministry; Brig Gen Pedro Nel Molano Vanegas of the Armed Forces General Command; Brig Gen Jorge Arturo Pineda Osorio, of the national police; Constantino Casabuenas Luque, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Consular Affairs Division; Col Carlos Chacon of the army command; Col Alvaro Bonilla of the military forces general command; Lt Col Nacim Ianine Diaz of the national police; and Lt Commander Ruben Combariza Segura of the navy.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge E. Ritter and Colombian Government Minister Jorge Mario Eastmann:

Whereas:

Erroneous reports have been published recently which might harm the cordial and fraternal relations that have always existed between the governments and people of the republics of Panama and Colombia;

These cordial and fraternal relations have been repeatedly confirmed in various declaration, whose spirit both countries will maintain and strengthen;

The talks between the two delegations were conducted within that spirit of sincerity and friendship, leading to a review of legislative, administrative, police, trade, immigration, customs, port, aeronautical and military procedures in order to improve them and eliminate any existing defects or shortcomings.

Agree:

1. To reinforce practical control of their border so as to prevent contraband in any form in either direction;

2. To establish coordinating mechanisms to curb activities detrimental to the moral, health, physical or psychological integrity of their peoples, and which endanger the stability of their institutions;

3. To continue these coordinating and consultation mechanisms so that both governments and Panamanian-Colombian public opinion will always be imbued in the truth and the spirit of fraternity and solidarity.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON HIJACKINGS

PA071934 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1847 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The Miraflores Palace, the headquarters of the Venezuelan Government, issued a communique a few minutes ago. It is signed by Information and Tourism Minister Enrique Perez Olivares and repudiates the action carried out this morning against the passengers of three domestic flights which were diverted to Barranquilla, Colombia.

The communique states that the Venezuelan Government, in coordination with Colombian officials, will take all legal steps to guarantee the immediate release of the 262 passengers who are still aboard the three planes hijacked to the Ernesto Cortizo Airport in Barranquilla.

We repeat: The Venezuelan Government communique indicates that it will exhaust all legal mechanisms to guarantee the immediate release of the passengers.

Hijackers' Communique

PA072241 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2155 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Euclides Perez report]

[Text] The proclamation left by the groups claiming responsibility for the hijacking of three Venezuelan commercial planes this morning at Maiquetia National Airport is written on both sides of seven pages.

They have called the operation (Manuel Rojas Luzardo) International Solidarity Operation.

The proclamation begins as follows:

Latin American brothers, exploited the length and breadth of the planet:

We, committed before the future to make a definite reality the real and inexorable independence of Latin America, which was initiated by our predecessors, particularly our liberator Simon Bolivar, and, inspired by his thought and deeds as well as by all the anonymous [word indistinct] who fell in the struggle up until this day, for the peace and the sovereignty of our peoples we assume before the world the responsibility for this action of solidarity with the heroic people of El Salvador.

The proclamation's text ends with the request made by the commandos assuming responsibility for the Venezuelan commercial planes.

They ask for $10 million, distributed as follows:

Five million dollars in $100 bills of different series and $5 million in $50, $20 and $10 bills, also of different series.

The immediate release of the Venezuelan political prisoners being held at the San Carlos barracks, in Caracas, (La Pica) Prison in Monagas State, Modelo Jail of Caracas and (El Dorado Prison) in Bolivar State.

The names of the imprisoned revolutionaries are as follows:

Then they list, among others, the most well-known, in San Carlos Barracks: (Ivan Padilla) and (Carlos Lang Pedrovich); in the Modelo Jail of Caracas, (Miguel Radas), (Rafael Pina), (Luis Soto), (Ruben Gomez), (Carlos Nesto) and (Jose Luis Dominguez).

They also ask for the release of 12 others currently being held in (La Pica) Prison in Monagas jail, among them (Humberto Sanchez), (Antonio Arias) and (Pedro Moreno).

Lastly, they ask for two inmates at El Dorado jail in Bolivar State. They are: (Franklin Navas Chinchilla) and (Ignacio Pacheco).

The guerrillas are also demanding the complete and textual publication of this proclamation in the main newspaper of Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras on the same day of the incident and the reading of the text on Venezuelan radio and television every 30 minutes.

The proclamation concludes: After complying with our demands, we will return the planes to their respective crews and passengers. But we hold the Venezuelan Government responsible before the people and history for any decision that might move us toward a tragic end.

In the case of delay, we will not hesitate to proceed to develop our plans. And we are able to complete the veiled and unfortunate threat made by Alexander Haig. There are some things worse than war: submission to imperialism.

More important than peace is the definite liberation of our America.

The fatherland is America.
Long live militant internationalism.
El Salvador will win.

This is part of the text of the proclamation delivered by the guerrillas who claim responsibility for the hijacking of three commerical planes which occurred this morning.

That is all for now, go ahead control.

ROYO: MEDIA MUST CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT MORE

PA062021 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Dec 81 p 1A

[Article by Rogelio Herrera]

[Text] President Aristides Royo said yesterday in Chitre at the inauguration of the Casa de la Cultura that "the media must criticize more because criticizing as little as they do the people cannot measure the quality, good or bad, of this government." He added: "The only thing is that this criticism must be done with taste [altura], impartiality and also in a positive and constructive sense. There is no persecution. The newspaper LA PRENSA exists because of the many government officials who buy it. I do not believe that I should withdraw the suits against LA PRENSA because that is in the hands of justice and justice is to rule on that. They have not withdrawn their slander against me."

Asked about the fact that General Torrijos was criticized even more and he never chose to sue, he replied: "With due respect to the memory of my great teacher, General Torrijos was General Torrijos and Aristides Royo is Aristides Royo."

In discussing communism, Royo said that "I do not believe that the people as people are afraid of communism. I believe that the fear is disseminated by the press and the radio which many times tell the people that there is communist penetration where there isn't any."

The president noted that "everything rests on all the leaders of radio, press and television and their ability to truly guide the people because we neither have a communist government here nor do we have a procommunist people. What we have is respect for everyone's ideas. Here we respect the ideas of the Social Democrats, the Christian Democrats, the members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, and the people of the People's Party. We are not persecuting anybody because of the way they think."

Asked why Panama is usually linked to the guerrillas in other countries, Royo said: "I don't know because we have absolutely nothing to do with the guerrillas in any country. Proof of this, is that we have great relations with the Colombians, very good relations with the Salvadoran Government and very good relations with the Government of Guatemala -- which are the three governments which I understand have guerrilla movements right now."

In conclusion, Royo, in referring to Nicaragua said: "I see the Government of Nicaragua in command, exercising its power and with certain worries which we have all definitely had: the fact that foreign intervention can occur in Nicaragua. However, that government and that people have the right to give themselves the regime they want. We, the others, can do no other than respect them."

EL SALVADOR

VENCEREMOS REPORTS EASTERN FRONT ACTIVITIES

PA071941 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The following is a report we have received from the general command of the northern area of the Francisco Sanchez eastern front concerning the military operation the dictatorship is carrying out in Morazan Department:

On 2 and 3 December National Guard troops conducted operations in (Rio Seco), Corozal, (Barrios), (Los Cerros) and (La Canada) Cantons.

On 5 December four trucks carrying commandos entered Sensenbra. That same day three trucks carrying commando troops entered Chilanga [word indistinct] 13 hours from Perquin, (?where) the enemy began firing mortars in various directions in Morazan Department. On that same day, a clash occurred between forces of the dictatorship and FMLN fighters in Jocoaitique and Gotera.

Deployment of National Guard troops and commandos toward northern Morazan Department began at 1030 on 6 December. Subsequently, enemy forces traveling from (Loaquin) to the north were attacked by FMLN squads. The number of casualties inflicted on the army is unknown at this moment.

Since 1 December, army reconnaissance light planes have been constantly flying over the department. The light planes have been dropping instruments to gauge meteorological conditions in order to use chemical weapons.

In addition, activities of the FMLN militias have been intensified throughout Morazan Department, including the blocking of roads to prevent the passage of tanks, cannon and troops of the dictatorship to various areas of the department.

FDR'S JUAN MARTEL COMMENTS ON SITUATION

PA070306 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 29 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] Within the people's irreversible revolutionary struggle, Juan Jose Martel, member of the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] Executive Committee, sees the revolutionary triumph "quite near."

Juan Jose Martel is practically the only survivor of the massacre of the five FDR leaders a year ago.

The Salvadoran leader replied to the newsmen's questions in the conference room of the Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity With Peoples [CNSP] as part of the CNSP program on the first anniversary of that brutal crime.

Juan Chacon, Enrique Alvarez, Enrique Escobar, Manuel Franco and Humberto Mendoza were captured by members of the security corps as they were meeting at San Jose College and murdered afterward.

Speaking of the Salvadoran military situation, which has been described as a deadlock where neither of the two opponents can overwhelm the other, Juan Jose Martel said first we have to eliminate the word "deadlocked" disseminated by U.S. interests.

A deadlock means that a static situation exists. However, the confrontation in El Salvador is on the contrary, he said. "We see," he said, "that the situation has reached a strategic balance and this is dynamic."

This balance is already tilting in favor of the revolutionary forces. This can be seen by our operations in August, when the army was dealt hard blows, he said.

He also mentioned the destruction of the Oro Bridge as an action tilting the balance in favor of the people's struggle, as well as the reactivation of the masses in San Salvador and the differences within the army. He emphasized the five attempted coups d'etat and the government corruption.

To this we have to add the irrestible advance of the revolutionary forces the FDR leader said.

He then noted that the revolutionary forces have been created from nothing, while the army was created 100 years ago and recently has received over $100 million as a legal contribution from the United States, apart from other funds we know nothing about. This is why when the revolutionary forces reach a par with the army, it is prelude to a military victory and a political defeat and a time when the strategic balance is beginning to tilt in our favor, Juan Jose Martel said.

He said in conclusion that this is why "we see victory very near."

FMLN DENIES PARTICIPATION IN PLANES' HIJACKING

PA080213 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] The FMLN has denied any participation in the hijacking of the Venezuelan planes. In a communique with a San Jose dateline, the FMLN says that the Salvadoran people's struggle is their internal affair and is not exported to other countries. This confirms that the Red Flag of Venezuela is certainly the one that hijacked the three planes.

This implictly means that with the FMLN denying its participation in the planes hijacking, the responsibility of this action seems to fall on other guerrilla groups that sympathize with the Salvadoran struggle. From the political viewpoint this is very important.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT ORDERS CLOSURE OF DOMESTIC AIRSPACE

PA071928 Bogota Radio Sutatenza in Spanish 1905 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Managua -- At noon today the Nicaraguan Government ordered the closure of Nicaraguan airspace, according to an official communique which gives no further explanation.

A decree issued by the junta of national reconstruction went into effect at 1200. It was stated here in Managua that the suspension of air traffic could be related to the hijacking of three airplanes in Venezuela. Several reports from Caracas have indicated that Nicaragua is a possible destination for the hijackers.

DECREE ISSUED ON SPECIAL STATE COUNCIL SESSIONS

PA051531 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0223 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Decree issued by the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction -- read by Commander Carlos Nunez at the 5 December closing ceremony of second period of sessions of the State Council at the Ruben Dario Theatre in Managua -- live]

[Text] The junta of the National Reconstruction Government of the Republic of Nicaragua, in use of its powers, decrees:

Article 1: In order to discuss the draft law on political parties, the State Council is convened to hold special sessions during December and the subsequent months on the days that the State Council's Board of Directors so decides. For this reason, the members of the State Council appointed by the political, popular, labor and social organizations which comprise it will be summoned to the State Council.

Article 2: This decree will go into effect as soon as it is published by any mass news media and will be subsequently published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

Issued in Managua on 4 December 1981, year of production and defense.

Junta of the National Reconstruction Government: Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Rafael Cordova Rivas.

SANDINIST STATE COUNCIL OFFICIALS DISCUSS ISSUES

PA050216 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Dec 81

["Direct Line" with Commander Rafael Solis, representative of the armed forces to the State Council and State Council secretary; and Federico Lopez, FSLN representative to the State Council; in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Question] This is (Antonio Ramos) of Colonia Morazan, Managua. My question is addressed to Companero Federico Lopez, whom I have heard speaking at the State Council: Why did neither the FSLN nor the Nicaraguan Socialist Party participate in the national reflection meeting sponsored by the People's Social Christian Party [PPSC], which is a member of the Revolutionary Patriotic Front?

[Lopez] Companero, we will try to answer your question. The FSLN carefully follows all efforts aimed at national unity among all the political and social sectors in our country, and especially all efforts aimed at gathering forces to support the revolutionary process and the historic interests of our people.

Regarding the reflection meeting called by the companeros of the PPSC, we must say that this is an effort in the framework of national unity. However, the FSLN and the Socialist Party are not the only ones not participating. There are other political Organizations that are not participating.

In my opinion, the main effort right now to strengthen national unity and to reach new levels of unity is taking place via the State Council, via the promotion of the bill on political parties.

This bill's objective is to institutionalize the participation of all the political parties in support of the revolutionary process. I think that this should be, and continues to be, the main effort promoted by the FSLN. This effort has had the support and the attention of all the country's political sectors and parties, including the companeros from the PPSC and others who are participating in the reflexion meeting.

I think that when an effort is made to strengthen national unity, for example the reflection dialogue, it is necessary to carefully choose the circumstances involved in this effort and to determine the direction of the effort. Otherwise, the effort could be untimely and might not secure the attention of all the political sectors.

This is why I say that right now the main effort to strengthen national unity is aimed at the institutionalization of the political parties and this is being done at the State Council.

[Question] The Conservative Party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement and others of the sort, have been saying that the Sandinists propose that parties can exist only if they are members of the State Council. My question is: Why does a party have to be a party?

[Lopez] Companero, the intention of the FSLN proposal that political parties should be in the State Council to be recognized as a party is in line with institutional and practical order.

The Sandinist Front has in fact legalized, through the Constitution and the creation of institutions such as the State Council and, political parties. It is in this institution, precisely, that the political parties have a place. It is in this sort of assembly that later will constitute the people's power and the site of an even greater representation, that all the political parties must function in order to be able for them to have a genesis. This will be a way for them to have legal status.

The most practical way, the only legal way that exists now, for a party to achieve recognition is within the State Council. For this reason, as long as we don't reach another phase in the institutional life of Nicaragua, we have to acknowledge only the representativeness of organizations in the State Council. These organizations must be in the State Council to be recognized as political parties.

[Question] What principles regarding pluralism does the new political parties law espouse? Will organizations that promote racial discrimination, war and other activities that go against the rights of the people and their economic, social and political liberation be permitted to participate?

[Lopez] Thank you for your question companero. I think it is a contribution to this debate. You have asked about the principle regarding political pluralism and on whether it has room for some trends, ideas, strategies and parties which contradict the fundamental principles of the revolution.

We must say that the Sandinist revolutionary process is on a pluralistic political model which admits reality, the objective reality of our country. There are different social classes in our country. There are common interests among the various social classes and there are also contradictory and antagonist interests.

Political pluralism provides historic opportunities, not only to the parties and organizations that have had a very significant, patriotic and revolutionary part in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship, but also to all those who now are prepared to work for their people, the fatherland and the national and social development of Nicaragua.

This is the realism of Sandinism. We must not try to eliminate forces that can contribute to the consolidation and development of the revolutionary process. This is the starting point of the pluralistic model promoted by the Sandinist Front and the Government of National Reconstruction.

[Lopez] The condition established by the FSLN political parties bill, that one must be a member of the State Council to have the right to organize a political party, is based on the belief that any political group in the country that is granted political rights -- for example, to have headquarters and officers throughout the country, to propagandize of its principles and programs, to use television time, to hold meetings and public rallies -- must also agree in principle with the ideals and objectives in line with the people and nation's general interests. These are the principles of the Sandinist revolution. This, of course, implies being against racist, interventionist, aggressive and reactionary sectors. Therefore, to be a member of the State Council is a definite way of all political organization, accepting the obligation to meet commitments in the economic, political and administrative duties of the state for the purpose of establishing a new life and strengthening the country's sovereignty. All this, of course, is opposed to those advocating racist and interventionist principles.

[Question] Good evening, my name is (Luisa Fonseca). There is no doubt that the FSLN initiative in submitting a political parties bill to the State Council is praiseworthy, and in a way, it opens the way to give the guarantees that some sectors are demanding for true political pluralism in our revolution. There is something, however, that worries me -- or should I say that I would like to know -- and that is, what is the FSLN's basic ideology?

[Solis] The FSLN National Directorate has clearly defined on a number of occasions that the FSLN represents the ideology, the struggle, the principles and the banner of Sandino. The FSLN has been enriched by the support given to the anti-imperialist struggle waged by Nicaragua plus the interpretation it has given to the nation's situation based on scientific instruments obtained from studying our history under the present circumstances. The FSLN has intensified its studies on the Nicaraguan situation to give shape, meaning and political interpretation according to the guidelines that the companeros have explained in many occasions. We believe this is not the time and the political parties bill does not discuss ideological issues on what is Sandinism and the principles it advocates. We believe this is going to help a great deal to eliminate some of the discussions that might have come up regarding ideology. We are not asking the FSLN or the other political parties to submit their principles or to engage in debates on the ideological issue.

[Lopez] I would say that in Nicaragua there is no political party with a more nationalistic ideology than the FSLN. We have Marxist-Leninist parties, Social Democrats, Liberals and other groups with different ideological trends of international importance. Without detracting from their merits of their effect on the nation's reality, the ideology of the FSLN is the most nationalistic, the one that best represents the people's historical struggle and their principles forged with blood. Also worth mentioning is that the FSLN ideology has, through theory, elaborated on the reality which is revolutionarily transforming the country, and that is why Sandinism must be interpreted as the theory of the Nicaraguan revolution. We understand why you ask that question, but this question is not always asked for the reason you have. There are others who have tried to give our reality and history a different connotation, and we must say with pride, assurance and honesty that the FSLN ideology is more Nicaraguan than any other political party in existence or that ever existed in Nicaragua.

[Question] My name is (Kenneth Colombo Guardado). My question is, if the political parties join the State Council, but then again decide to withdraw from it, what measures will be taken against them?

[Lopez] Companero Guardado, we believe that those that have returned to the State Council, after going through the experience of October 1980, realize that their participation on the State Council is a responsibility that the Nicaraguan people are demanding from all sectors that wish to participate in politics in our country. We believe it is very difficult to predict what is going to be done or happen from an institutional or legal point to those that willingly withdraw from the State Council for whatever reason. We do believe that their presence on the State Council, in the militias and the country's reconstruction is a patriotic responsibility and duty -- not just of the Nicaraguan people, but above all for those who try to represent a political sector. The Nicaraguan people would reject and criticize any action against the fulfillment of this commitment. We feel that if such a thing should occur it wouldn't make any sense. It would neither be in the best interests of the people nor of the political parties participating in the revolutionary process.

[Question] Good evening companeros, my name is (Anibal Moreno) and I am calling from San Judas neighborhood. I have heard somewhere that the political parties bill is worthless without elections. What does the bill have to do with elections?

[Lopez] We believe this is part of the process already established by the FSLN National Directorate to give political parties' activities a political character. It also takes into consideration Decree 513, which states that in 1985 there will be elections in our country. The decree also establishes the beginning of an electoral process in 1984. The objectives of the bill are clear.

They are: political parties, their activities, duties, obligations and rights. No one is refusing to hold elections. On the contrary, the reasons they have to be postponed have to do with the completion of the process of updating historic ideas and national reconstruction. This process has been given a short time. Businessmen in our country have been given 10 years to rebuild their businesses, the great enterprise, but the nation has not been allowed that time because of the people's political will to begin a revolutionary electoral process, as established in Decree 513. With regard to the opinion that this bill is worthless without elections, that is a personal view which in our opinion contributes neither to the institutionalization process of the bill, nor to the electoral process that could be organized in our country according to the expressed will of the revolution and the people's efforts for self-determination.

[Question] This is (Javier Hernandez de Leon) speaking. I would like to know why are you giving these so-called political parties any opportunity, when in reality, in Nicaragua, there is only one political party -- that is the party of the FSLN -- which has earned this right in a struggle that lasted 20 years. What we have here are antagonistic groups, class groups, the exploiters and the exploited. Why are you allowing any participation to all these so-called parties which never did anything for the workers?

[Solis] We believe that we have to pay attention to matters of political nature to prevent any one from saying that we are eliminating political parties, that we are taking away the rights they had. Although as our companero said, most of these groups are small, not granting them an opportunity would contribute to the slander campaign being carried out here and abroad. The FSLN and the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction are aware of the fact that the FSLN is the predominant force. This right was earned during the struggle aginst the dictatorship. The other political parties were not especially notorious during the struggle. Instead, they assumed positions of collaboration or else were passive, not exactly attitudes for overthrowing the dictatorship. They were more interested in establishing another system of exploitation of the people, but that in no way would eliminate the economic differences and injustices that existed during the Somozist period. If the opportunities were closed and the groups calling themselves political organizations were left out, we would be going against the interests of the revolution and we would be doing a great harm to the people.

We must recognize that the majority of these parties with their various trends, as I mentioned before, existed before Somozism. They had their organizations, directorate and some were even allies. Therefore, we believed that they had some representation and support from some sectors and, why not admit it, a place in this process. However, I have to say that their support in the struggle against Somozism was not enough, and wasn't necessary for the overthrow of Somozism.

[Question] My name is (Lucrecia Montano de Urros). I am a member of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party and I think I'm entitled to ask the following question. Where do you, companeros, think the implementation of a law on parties will lead to? I ask this because of the increasing electioneering-rumor campaign promoted by some groups here in Nicaragua, perhaps thinking that they will return to the old bourgeois schemes of the past. Thank you.

[Lopez] The Sandinist Front's initiative about the law on political parties, which we are discussing in this program, will not necessarily seek to lead to an immediate electoral process here in Nicaragua. It seeks to give way to a precess of national unity, and to bolster it, in order to consolidate the national independence and strengthen the task of reconstructing the country both economically and socially through the expansion of forces and commitments. The purpose of this bill on political parties is to strengthen the national unity and to make it rise to new levels. This national unity should be a function of the struggle for peace and for our people's economic and social development, a function of the maintenance of the national sovereignty and the people's interests.

FIDEL CASTRO SPEAKS AT FEEM'S FIFTH CONGRESS

WA080808 [Editorial Report] Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish at 1204 GMT on 7 December states:

"Commander in Chief Fidel Castro expressed a few hours ago at the closing ceremonies of the fifth congress of FEEM [Federation of Intermediate Level Students] in Havana, the following:

"Imperialist gentleman, the new Cuban generation is more firm, stronger, more revolutionary and more persevering than the very generation that inspired and educated us.

"The spirit of the young toward national and international tasks are so magnificient that it makes us feel secure about the future and Cuba's role in world.

"Fidel also said that he wanted to come to the congress because he has always followed with attention and interest student activities and more so in meetings such as this one. He also said that in the past few days he had had many activities and obligations, but that he had made time to attend, although his throat did not feel well, and that he was pleased to be among the young people."

At 1301 GMT the same source adds that Castro "said that he had decided to attend the meeting because he still considered himself a student and because he had trouble forgetting the days when he attended classes. He said that it is really difficult to compare life in those days with today's educational way.

"What a difference! exclaimed Fidel; and continuing, he cited first that it was generally a priviledged few that attended school because the children of workers and peasants could not even dream of attending a preuniversity course or technological institute.

"Fidel observed the sacrifice of parents to provide an education for their children and referred to the scarcity of technological schools which hardly existed at that time, while today it is difficult to count the technological, vocational, (?camblitos) centers and physical education teachers available in the city as well as in the countryside."

At 1342 GMT the same source adds that Castro "said that we have reason to be pleased that our extraordinary young people have the opportunity to study and better themselves."

"Fidel said that that moves us but we are more pleased with the result that is evident in your culture and your revolutionary conscience. It may be difficult to imagine just how we thought about you at the time of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, at the Granma landing and at the time of the victory of the revolution. We thought about you because we fought for justice, the welfare of the people and for the new generations, he stated.

"Fidel also affirmed that some asked the questions: How would the new generation turn out? Would it be less revolutionary? Would it be less aware? And yet we have a generation that has more spirit and more awareness. This has been demonstrated by it being in the forefront at all times, and in recent days, facing threats to the fatherland and in defense of the country."

At 1441 GMT the same source adds that Castro had "expressed that when we were moved by pain over the unjustifiable death of our Cuban teachers, tens of thousands of our comrades volunteered to take their place, together with the educators and the vanguard, at the front lines.

"To illustrate the spirit of the young Cubans, Fidel said that at the time the militia of the territorial troops was being formed to assure defense, about 100 technicians were needed for FAR and the senior students of the required specialties were thought of. There were more than 300, and all of them, without exception, volunteered to occupy the posts."

"You are the ones who will be living in the year 2000, when you will still be young, because 20 years will pass by quickly; and we are conscious of the problems that await the world in future decades, with a growing population that will reach 6 billion people and diminishing resources, Fidel said.

"To face those problems, man will have a serious challenge and our young people should be prepared for that great task, the chief of the revolution indicated."

CASTRO CHAIRS CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

FL071832 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The third plenum of the Central Committee was held on Saturday, with our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party's Central Committee, presiding. The plenum approved the measures of an economic nature that will be implemented in the country and which are related to the 1982 economic plan, which includes the implementation of reforms to retail prices and the abrogation of some inappropriate gratuities.

Comrade Fidel Castro summed up the plenum's findings.

ADN REPORTS COMMUNIQUE ON DKP'S MIES VISIT

LD062216 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1911 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Havana, 6 Dec (ADN) -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party [CPC] Central Committee, received the chairman of the DKP [German Communist Party], Herbert Mies, on Saturday, in Havana before the conclusion of the latter's official visit to Cuba. During the cordial and friendly discussion, Herbert Mies reported on the current political situation in the FRG and Western Europe and on the wide movement of peace forces against NATO's plans to build up its arms. Both sides highly appraised the visit to the FRG by the general secretary of the CPSU CEntral Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Leonid Brezhnev. They stressed the importance of the upcoming meeting between the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, Erich Honecker, and Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The two sides stressed their mutual goal of further deepening fraternal relations between the CPC and DKP.

In a joint communique, the two sides most strongly denounced "the threats and acts of aggression by the Reagan administration against the peoples of Cuba, Nicaragua, and El Salvador." The visit has consolidated their "fighting alliance in the struggle to preserve peace." It is important "to do everything possible to consolidate the policy of detente and implement disarmament steps."

The CPC affirmed "its solidarity the DKP's struggle against the placement of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe and against the production and placement of the neutron bomb," and its high regard for the communists of the FRG in spreading and strengthening the peace movement.

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ETHIOPIA IN HAVANA

PA071904 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Cuba and Ethiopia have signed a trade agreement in Havana that will be the basis for developing and intensifying bilateral relations in that sphere. The document was signed by the Cuban and Ethiopian foreign trade ministers, Ricardo Cabrizas and Wollie Chekol, respectively. Cabrizas highlighted the importance of signing the document and pointed out that Cuba will make all efforts to fulfill the objectives contemplated in the agreement.

For his part, the Ethiopian leader emphasized the friendship and cooperation existing between both countries. Chekol said he was convinced that both countries will be able to broaden their bilateral economic relations even further.

LEADERS GREET LPDR LEADERS ON NATIONAL DAY

BK070757 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the LPDR's founding, Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, sent a greetings message to Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and premier; and Comrade Souphanouvong, state president of the LPDR. The message reads as follows:

On the occasion of the sixth founding anniversary of the LPDR, on behalf of the Communist Party, people and Government of Cuba, I would like to extend warm greetings of fraternity to you, comrades, and through you, to the LPRP, the Government and people of Laos.

The founding of the LPDR on 2 December 1975 has opened an era of peace, independence, freedom and prosperity for the Lao people. Our Cuban people have been satisfied with the changes beneficial to the life of the Lao people, and are convinced that the Lao people will certainly achieve new, still greater successes in building and defending their beloved country.

I would like to avail myself of this occasion to wish for the daily development of the fraternal and militant friendship and the relations between our two parties, two states and two peoples. I also wish you, comrades, good health and success in carrying out your noble tasks. I also take this occasion to express my personal, lofty respects to you comrades.

On the same occasion, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign relations minister of the Republic of Cuba, also sent a greetings message to Comrade Foreign Affairs Minister Phoun Sipaseut of Laos.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRESIDENT HOSPITALIZED WITH ARM INJURY

PA070106 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Santo Domingo, 6 Dec (AFP) -- Antonio Guzman, president of the Dominican Republic, was hospitalized yesterday in the San Isidro military air base hospital, 20 km east of here, as a result of a "hairline fracture" in an arm, it was reported today in official sources.

The chief of state reportedly fell aboard the frigate Mella, a navy flagship, as he was on his way to the city of Barahona to inaugurate the fifth national sporting events.

The president was traveling with his wife Renne Klang de Guzman and ranking civilian and military officials. The president, nevertheless, inaugurated the sports event without the public apparently being aware of the accident.

The press office of the National Palace released a bulletin today which states: "It is hereby reported that his excellency, the president of the republic, suffered a hairline fracture in the right arm while he was on his way to Barahona aboard the frigate Mella."

The report adds that President Guzman will be hospitalized for 2 days.

SURINAME

PRESIDENT REJECTS RADICAL ADVENTURISM IN COUNTRY

FL072055 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 6 Dec (CANA) -- Suriname, a Dutch-speaking republic run by a military-backed government, has no place for radical adventurism, according to President Dr Henk Chin A Sen.

In a sixth independence anniversary message, the English text of which has just been released here, Dr Chin A Sen declared: "We will endanger our country with radical adventurism, ideologies and empty shouts and slogans will be of little benefit to our nation."

The revolutionary process, the struggle against foreign domination, must be aimed towards the interests of Suriname society and the pace and measure in which changes take place must be directed by the historical phase in which we are in, he said. The Suriname head of state said that the people should be the chief exponents of the development process.

The president's comments are seen here in the context of the recently-formed Revolutionary National Front, led by army strongman Lt Colonel Dasi Bouterse. The front comprises progressive trade unions, farmers groups, political parties, intellectual and youth organizations.

"We have always advocated the harmony model. We must reach consensus in relations to our objectives and priorities, only then will we be one nation and will realize our objectives, and then no power in the world can restrain us from these," the president said.

On another note he told the people of Suriname that above all they must remain realistic, pointing out that though politically independent, the country was still dependent on aid from Holland and the revenue of the bauxite company here.

He stated that freedom was not given to any one. "We all have to work and struggle for it, and we shall have to make sacrifices. Let us not live with the illusion that other countries are prepared to give us what we are entitled to. What we shall have, will be what we have built for ourselves. What we keep will be that which we will defend. What we receive will be that which we have attained," he said.

The military seized power here in a coup nearly 2 years ago.

BOUTERSE DISCUSSES NEED FOR CONTROLLING BANKS

FL072300 Bridgetown CANA in English 1004 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 7 Dec (CANA) -- The head of the Suriname Army, Lt Col Daysi Bouterse, has said that the economic structure of this country is resulting in a development of appreciation for alien cultures and values and is also creating an anti-Suriname attitude. He said that there was need for a change of this pattern or the country would only be marking time. He made the observation while addressing a district committee meeting. He said that Suriname did not have a positive production machinery aimed at the country and its people and which services the expansion, growth and prosperity of the national interest.

The army chief is one of the most powerful men in the country, whose government changed in a coup last year.

"The banks and financing systems, central points for any planning of a national economy, are not being controlled by the state," he remarked. The means of production are not the property of the Suriname people and even local entrepreneurs are getting a raw deal. "The production of Suriname is not attached to the development of Suriname's science, technology and culture. The policy, culture and views which exist on the basis of such an economy, particularly, are anti-Suriname. This results in a deep disbelief in our own knowledge, a dogged pessimism about the future of the country, a gloomy outlook, a decadence, even in the highest rung of our society, and admiration for everything of American and European make."

He said the basis for getting rid of these things was unity and declared: "Let the local entrepreneurs further develop their companies. Let the workers and farmers increase production. Let the civil servants improve their services, and let the soldiers watch over and protect the revolution." He called on those who support the revolution to have the correct approach to work, pointing out that if mistakes were made their detractors would be swift to denigrate them.

He claimed that a process of destabilization was developing in the country by press attacks, the creation of disorder, fires and rumors. He urged supporters of the revolution to prepare for this, and to consider this as a confirmation that "we are on the right road."